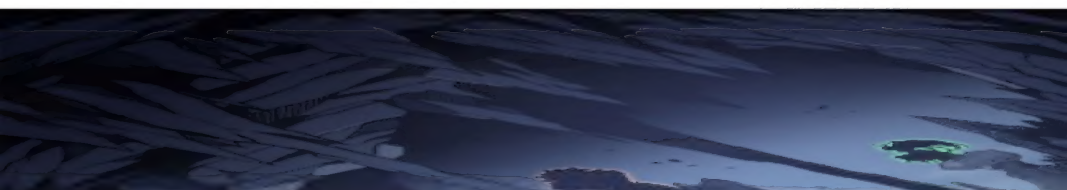
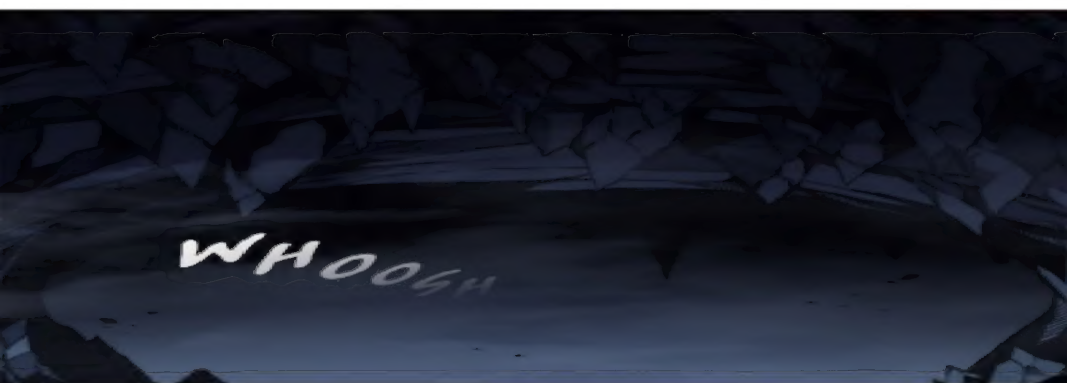


# Solo Leveling

Art: DUBU (REDICE STUDIO)  
Original Novel: Chugong  
Story: h-goon

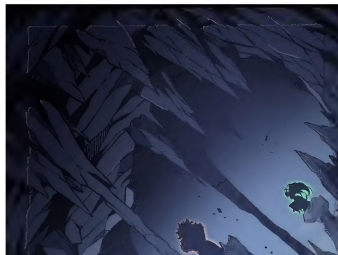
152

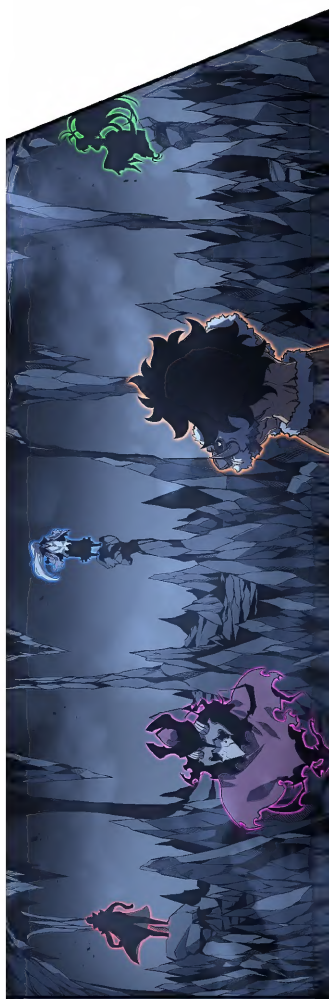
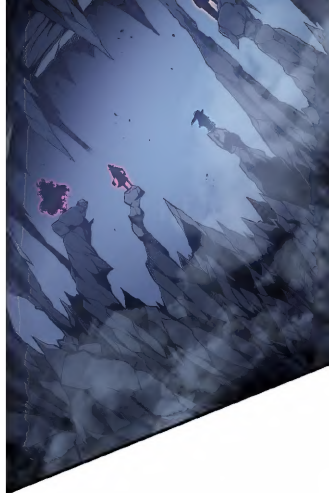


# Solo Leveling

Art: DUBU (REDICE STUDIO)  
Original Novel: Chugong  
Story: H-goan

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THE MONARCH  
OF SHADOWS  
IS CURRENTLY  
ON EARTH.



I THOUGHT YOU SAID  
THERE WASN'T A VESSEL  
THAT COULD CONTAIN  
HIS POWERS.



ISN'T THAT WHY THE  
DRAGON KING COULDN'T  
REMAIN ON EARTH?



CHOOSING  
TO FIGHT AGAINST  
HIM IS CHOOSING  
DEATH.

OUT OF THE NINE  
MONARCHS WHO REIGN  
OVER CHAOS, HE'S ONE  
OF THE STRONGEST.

WHY DON'T YOU  
WAIT FOR THE MONARCH  
OF DESTRUCTION, THE  
DRAGON KING, TO  
RETURN INSTEAD?

WE MAY BE ON  
THE RUN RIGHT NOW,  
BUT WE'RE STILL  
MONARCHS.

CLENCH

HOW MUCH  
LONGER DO YOU  
EXPECT US TO RELY  
SOLELY ON THE  
DRAGON KING?

NOW'S OUR  
CHANCE TO GET RID  
OF THE MONARCH OF  
SHADOWS, WHEN HE'S  
STILL IN HIS HUMAN  
FORM.



FIGHT  
WITH ME.

I WILL TAKE  
RESPONSIBILITY AND  
SEND HIM BACK TO  
NOTHINGNESS.









I DON'T WANT TO BE  
CAUGHT BY THE SHADOW  
MONARCH'S AUTHORITY  
AND FALL INTO "ETERNAL  
SLUMBER."



I DON'T THINK HE  
CAN SUBJECT OUR  
ASTRAL BODIES  
TO HIS AUTHORITY,  
THOUGH.

IT SEEMS  
THE MONARCH OF  
SHADOWS AND THE  
ARCHITECT HAVE  
JOINED FORCES,  
SO...

...HE CAN  
CREATE REPLICAS  
OF US.

I'D RATHER NOT  
BECOME ONE OF  
HIS PAWNS.



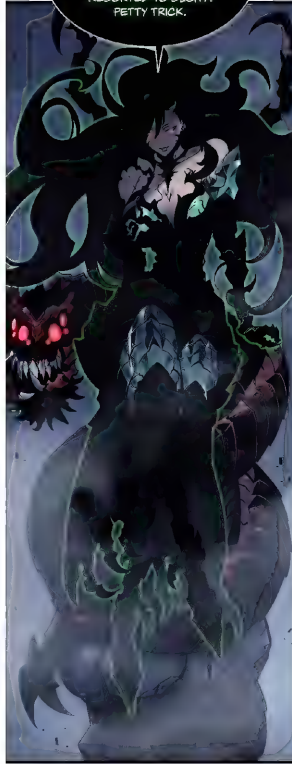
HE HAD APPLIED  
POISON ON HIS DAGGER.  
THAT'S NOT SOMETHING  
ASHBORN, THE MONARCH  
OF SHADOWS, WOULD  
DO.



POISON...?

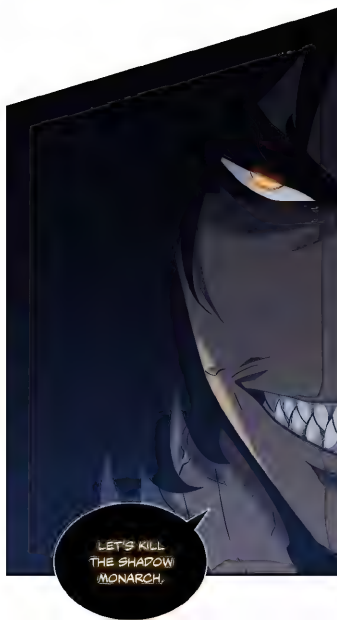
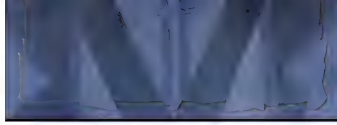


YOU'RE RIGHT. IF THE  
MONARCH OF SHADOWS WERE  
CONTROLLING THE HUMAN'S  
BODY, HE WOULDN'T HAVE  
RESORTED TO SUCH A  
PETTY TRICK.



DO I HAVE YOUR  
SUPPORT THEN?








"THINK CAREFULLY ABOUT  
WHO WILL PROTECT YOUR  
LIFE IF ANOTHER S-RANK  
GATE WERE TO SPAWN."



"YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO  
BUY BACK YOUR LIFE EVEN  
IF YOU PAID HUNDREDS... NO,  
THOUSANDS OF TIMES MORE  
THAN WHAT YOU PAID FOR  
YOUR HOUSE."

BACK WHEN  
SLING JINWOO WAS  
BATTLING THE ANTS  
ON JEJU ISLAND,

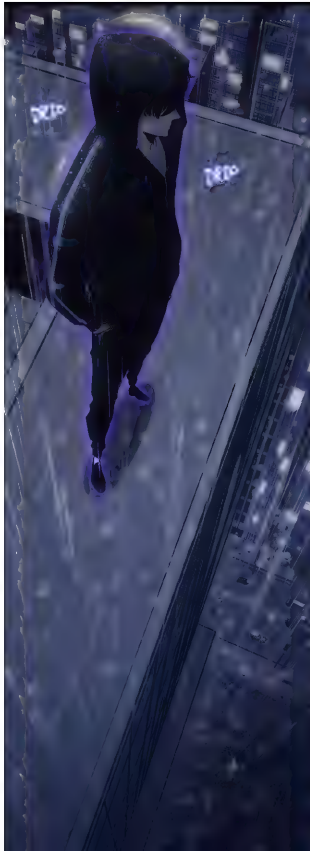
CHAIRMAN  
GO GUNHEE, WHO  
WAS WATCHING THE  
BROADCAST WITH  
ME, SAID...

A dark, rainy night scene of a city street. A multi-story building is visible in the background, with some windows illuminated. A streetlight is visible in the upper right, casting a glow. The rain is depicted as vertical streaks across the entire scene.

...HE COULD DIE IN  
PEACE, NOW THAT HIS  
LIFELONG WISH HAD  
BEEN FULFILLED.

BUT I DIDN'T THINK  
HE'D PASS AWAY SO  
SOON...





I CAN'T  
DETECT HIS  
MANA.



AS I SUSPECTED,  
THIS ISN'T GOING  
TO WORK.

STATUS

NAME: SONG JINWOO

LV. 133

JOB: THE MONARCH OF SHADOWS

TITLE: DEMON HUNTER (+2 MORE)

HP: 78,230

MP: 136,160

FATIGUE: 3

STRENGTH: 308

HEALTH: 307

AGILITY: 316

INTELLIGENCE: 321

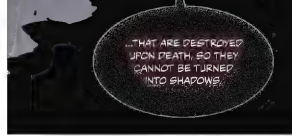
SENSE: 298

AP: 0

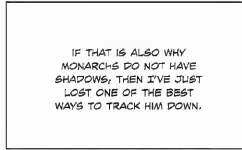


THE KING OF GIANTS TOLD ME MONARCHS AND RULERS CAN'T BECOME SHADOW SOLDIERS BECAUSE THEY ARE MADE OF ASTRAL BODIES.





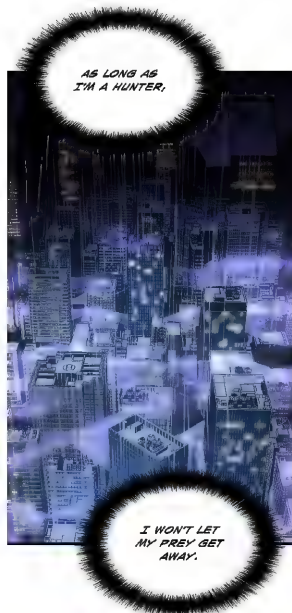
...THAT ARE DESTROYED  
UPON DEATH, SO THEY  
CANNOT BE TURNED  
INTO SHADOWS.



IF THAT IS ALSO WHY  
MONARCHS DO NOT HAVE  
SHADOWS, THEN I'VE JUST  
LOST ONE OF THE BEST  
WAYS TO TRACK HIM DOWN.



WELL...  
IT DOESN'T  
MATTER.



AS LONG AS  
I'M A HUNTER,

I WON'T LET  
MY PREY GET  
AWAY.





IT'S BEEN  
OVER A WEEK SINCE  
THE CHAIRMAN'S  
PASSING.



IT'S TIME WE  
DECIDED ON HIS  
SUCCESSOR.

THE FACT THAT THE  
CHAIRMAN OF THE KOREAN  
HUNTER'S ASSOCIATION  
WAS AN S-RANK HUNTER  
HELD GREAT MEANING.



BUT NOW THAT  
WE'VE LOST SUCH A  
MONUMENTAL FIGURE,  
WHO WILL BE ABLE  
TO OVERSEE THE FIVE  
MAJOR GUILDS?



ARE YOU  
SUGGESTING WE  
RECRUIT AN S-RANK TO  
THE ASSOCIATION?



HIGH-RANKING HUNTERS  
MAY BE INFLUENTIAL, BUT WE  
SHOULD BE CALTIOUS OF  
BRINGING IN OUTSIDERS.

THEN WHAT DO  
YOU SUPPOSE WE  
DO...?



AFTER MUCH  
DISCUSSION, THE  
DIRECTORS AND I  
HAVE DECIDED TO  
RECOMMENP...

...MR. WOO  
JINCHUL AS THE  
NEW CHAIRMAN.



WHAT?  
WHY ME...?



AS THE LATE  
CHAIRMAN'S RIGHT-HAND  
MAN, YOU HAVE LEARNED  
THE PRACTICAL SKILLS  
NEEDED FOR THE  
JOB...

...AND YOU ALSO  
HAVE THE LEADERSHIP  
SKILLS TO RALLY THE  
HUNTERS.

THERE'S  
NO REQUIREMENT  
STATING THAT THE  
CHAIRMAN HAS TO  
BE AN S-RANK.

WE NEED SOMEONE  
WHO HAS INFLUENCE  
OVER THE HUNTERS  
AND IS FEARED BY  
THE HUNTERS.

IN OTHER WORDS, WE  
BELIEVE YOU FIT THE BILL,  
MR. WOO, AS YOU HAVE BEEN  
ARRESTING AND MANAGING  
HUNTERS OVER THE YEARS  
AS THE SURVEILLANCE  
TEAM MANAGER.

IN MANY RESPECTS,  
I AM NOT THE BEST  
CANDIDATE FOR THIS  
POSITION.

THERE ARE SEVERAL  
OTHERS WHO OCCUPY  
HIGHER POSITIONS THAN  
ME. AND AREN'T I  
TOO YOUNG?



YOU'RE ON GOOD TERMS  
WITH THE MAJOR GUILDS,  
AND ABOVE ALL, YOU'RE  
WELL-ACQUAINTED WITH  
MR. SUNG JINWOO.



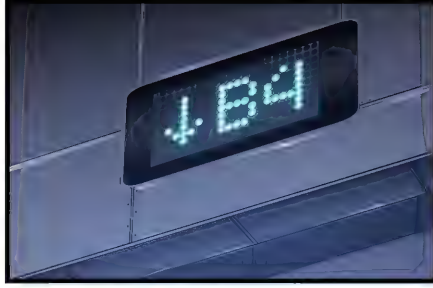
WE'VE RUN INTO  
EACH OTHER A NUMBER  
OF TIMES, BUT I'M NOT  
SURE IF HE THINKS  
WE'RE CLOSE...

WE CAN'T FORCE  
YOU TO ACCEPT OUR  
DECISION IF THAT'S  
HOW YOU REALLY  
FEEL, MR. WOO.

BUT... COULD YOU AT  
LEAST GIVE IT CAREFUL  
CONSIDERATION?













ARE YOU REALLY  
GOING TO GIVE  
IT AWAY AS A  
GIFT?



DOES IT SEEM  
EXCESSIVE? EVEN  
IF IT'S IN EXCHANGE  
FOR THE LIVES OF  
ME AND MY GUILD  
MEMBERS?



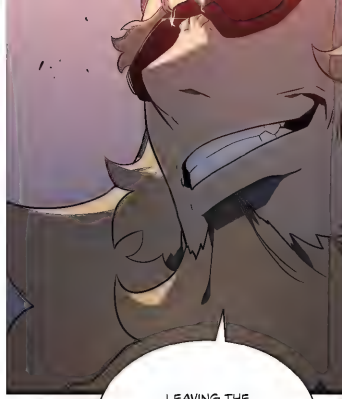
NO, NOT AT ALL,  
BUT...





...IT NEVER FAILS  
TO IMPRESS ME.





LEAVING THE  
WORLD'S BEST WEAPON  
HERE TO ROT IS SUCH A  
WASTE, ISN'T IT?



To Be C

Sol  
Leve



continued...

to  
eling



Translator: Joelle

Editor: Michelle Kim

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